

135:39  
ms

#BXNMY \*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*CO19  
005 DTM  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC S1018 P1  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

OCT 14 2011

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

ED SINCE 1877

BER 6, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 39



## Baptist leaders endorse Personhood

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has endorsed Initiative 26, also known as the Personhood Amendment, that will appear on the Nov. 8 state general election ballot, and is encouraging Mississippi Baptist pastors and church members to support the measure which is expected to meet heavy opposition.

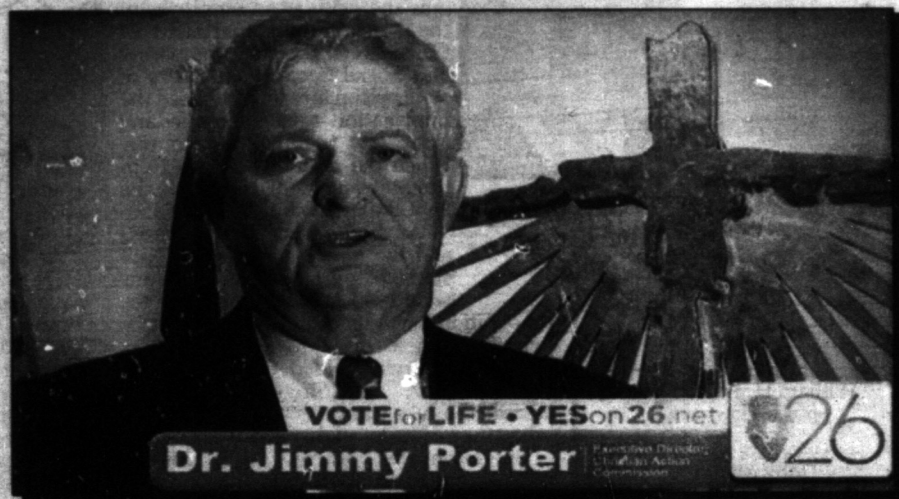
If approved by voters, Initiative 26 will amend the Mississippi Constitution to define human personhood as beginning at the "moment of fertilization or the functional equivalent thereof."

"Human life has a very special place in the creation of God," said Jimmy Porter, CAC executive director, in a video produced for the Yes on 26 campaign. "In fact, the Bible says we are created in the image of God. We are the only ones. God felt that life was very special and values it. The Lord expects us to value life even as He does."

"Let me make it clear that this is not a political issue," Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, wrote in a mailout to Mississippi Baptist pastors. "It is a question of whether the people of Mississippi will go on record saying that the life of a person begins when that life is conceived. It is a moral issue. It is an ethical issue. It is a spiritual issue..."

"This amendment is not just an anti-abortion position, but it is a pro-life position and will state that the people of Mississippi believe unquestionably that when an egg and sperm are united in a mother's womb, the creation that takes place is a new, separate, and unique individual that deserves the right to be protected, loved, and have the opportunity to live out his or her existence."

"Mississippi Baptists can go to the polls, vote 'Yes,' and almost singlehandedly make the right decision. One thing is for sure — if we do nothing, we will miss a choice opportunity for making a decision that will reverberate across our land."



Opponents of the measure have also noticed the importance of the upcoming vote. Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the nation, has joined a newly-incorporated group called Mississippians for Healthy Families that was formed to fight Initiative 26 — even though Planned Parenthood does not have a single clinic or abortion facility in the state.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is one of Planned Parenthood's partners in Mississippians for Healthy Families. The group has hired Mississippi veteran lobbyist Stan Flint to manage the anti-26 campaign and serve as spokesman.

Supporters of Initiative 26 expect a dirty campaign to defeat the measure. Already, a Planned Parenthood chaplain and homosexual activist from Seattle identified himself as a Southern Baptist minister at a public meeting in Tupelo and spoke against the measure. (For documentation, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Me0U5js-QU>.)

"You have no idea how many millions of dollars will pour into Mississippi to protect abortion," said former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who was the featured speaker at a Sept. 8 dinner sponsored by the Yes on 26 campaign at First Church, Jackson. Huckabee, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and current FoxNews show host, said, "This is not about women. This is about elevating wealth among those who promote and profit from abortion."

If Initiative 26 is approved, Mississippi will be the first state to constitutionally recognize personhood as beginning at the moment of fertilization. Personhood amendments have made it on to the voters in other states but have failed in balloting. Colorado voters have twice failed to pass a personhood amendment in that state.

Measures similar to Mississippi's Initiative 26 are slated for future elections in other states, including Ohio. Petition drives and other actions to get personhood amendments on ballots are active in several other states.

The wording of Initiative 26 is as follows:

*Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Mississippi: SECTION 1. Article III of the constitution of the state of Mississippi is hereby amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION TO READ: Section 33. Person defined. As used in this Article III of the state constitution, "The term 'person' or 'persons' shall include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the functional equivalent thereof." This initiative shall not require any additional revenue for implementation.*

Yes on 26 leaders have urged Mississippians to visit the web site, [Yeson26.net](http://Yeson26.net), for the latest updates on the campaign, as well as documentation on rumors and misinformation that are expected to be spread by opponents of Initiative 26. Mississippi Baptists can also contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: [rmccollum@christianaction.com](mailto:rmccollum@christianaction.com). Web site: [www.christianaction.com](http://www.christianaction.com).

VOTE for LIFE

26  
YES on 26.net







## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H. Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Rebekah Ray  
rray@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING  
Emily Jones  
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Brenda Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS  
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:  
Archie Herrin, Columbia  
Chris Webb, Jackson  
Sharon Neff, Cleveland  
John Price, Charleston  
Dwayne Parker, Flora  
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:  
Send changes of address to: The  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and  
address changes to: The Editor,  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 135 • NUMBER 39  
(ISSN 0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.  
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.  
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.  
Deadlines: News items — one calendar  
week prior to requested publication date.  
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to  
requested publication date. All submissions  
are subject to editing.

## Tragedy as commonplace

Janice Singleton of Jackson had the world on a string. The first in her family to earn a college degree, the ambitious young woman opened a tax preparation business at the age of 22. She worked other jobs, too, to get ahead. She became a role model in the minority community from which she sprang.

The story of how she came to stand before a federal judge in Jackson in 2009 as a convicted felon is, sadly, becoming tragically commonplace in our state.

Singleton pled guilty to fraud and was sentenced to four years and four months in prison. Prosecutors allege that while she was working one of those other jobs she held, as an employee of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, she stole the names and Social Security numbers of state prison inmates and used the information to file false federal and state income tax returns. When the refunds came in from those fraudulent returns, she kept the money for herself.

As her artifice was exposed and the house of cards she built started to crumble, questions were also raised about her tax preparation business. According to some of her clients, there were problems there, too. The Secret Service raided the business in January 2007, and Singleton allegedly assaulted a television crew the next month when they came to ask her about the raid.

Singleton was indicted on 20 counts, including identity theft, fraudulent use of identity, fraud by mail or other means of communication, and fraudulent statements. Prosecutors allege she stole the identities of at least 50 state prison inmates while in the employ of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, to further her



scheme. It is not clear from news reports whether any irregularities at the tax preparation business can be proven.

As Singleton begged for mercy from U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate, she admitted that a gambling problem led her into a life of betrayal and crime. Wingate, justifiably unmoved, issued the prison sentence and also ordered her to pay the Internal Revenue Service and the Mississippi Tax Commission more than \$240,000 in restitution.

According to news reports, Singleton still faces state charges in Rankin County where she worked for the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

The culture in our state today takes little note of individuals whose lives are wrecked by legalized gambling. As our governor and legislators have indicated over and over, by both word and deed, the

money brought in by legalized gambling is just too sweet to care about the individuals and families destroyed in the process — but what of the many other innocent victims of the many other schemes to steal money for legalized gambling?

While it's normally difficult to sympathize with prison inmates, we should take into account that Singleton took advantage of a group of people who were vulnerable and helpless to protect themselves from her. As if they don't have enough problems, they will now be released back into society when their sentences are served with one more complication: identity theft. There could also be additional victims if Singleton's scheme carried over into the tax preparation business.

Then there's the odd situation of the government — that's us, by the way — legalizing the very activity that led to the government punishing Singleton so severely. The government offers the temptation and then penalizes people for taking advantage of the temptation. The government promotes the addiction, and then slaps people down when they go too far.

Does this make sense? That's a good question to ask the politicians who got us into this mess. They're running for election and reelection this year. Don't accept the platitudes and dodgy answers for which they are so famous these days. When they next want your vote, let them know your support hinges on their position on legalized gambling. They work for us, after all, even if some of them believe the opposite is true.

As long as we excuse legalized gambling and allow its corruption to flourish at such great cost, there will be many more Janice Singletons in our future. The next tragedy could be your father or mother, son or daughter.

Think about it.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Get ready for tablet world

By Aaron Linne  
Nashville



and give a video update on how things are going.

#### Easier access to text resources

Missionaries can't afford to ship their entire library overseas, but they can bring along a slim device that carries \$5,000 worth of commentaries downloaded on it. Tablets create a better reading experience than either a phone or a computer screen. Holding a tablet feels like holding a book. Tablets will be the natural method of reading for the rising generation.

#### Owning your church's app

Web browsers and online sites will catch up to the abilities of tablet apps (like we're seeing with HTML5), then tablets will improve and the flow will go back to apps being more advanced than browsers

can hope to be, and so on. If your church doesn't have an app in the coming years that is constantly updated like your website, the rising culture (not just the rising generation) might feel disconnected.

#### No more guest cards?

Windows 8 has announced support for NFC (near-field communication) and the Nexus S 4G (an Android device) is already out with it. NFC allows you to share basic information with other NFC-enabled devices, just by being close to them and tapping. Want to leave your personal information for the church to contact you? Just tap your phone on the church's information tablet in the back. Are you a member and want to tithe through your credit card? Just tap that, too.

#### Your pastor may not need an office

That's what we do with our pastor at Mosaic Nashville. We've never rented office space for our pastor. Instead, he goes to different coffee shops each day to meet with different people and be a part of the local community. There are only four things that tie a pastor to an office: their computer (it's portable now via the tablet), their library (it's in the tablet), knowing where the pastor will be (now broadcast via twitter and Facebook), and privacy.

As tablets become more available in more flavors, there are going to be feature sets and price points that exactly match your ministry's needs. The goal of a computer on every desk will be quickly forgotten, just as the art of handwriting begins its exit as well.

So, have you picked up a tablet lately?

Linne is executive producer of digital marketing for the B&H Publishing Group of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Nashville. He writes a monthly technology column for Baptist Press.

## 'Prosperity gospel' ruining true witness

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — A dangerous "egocentric gospel" that omits Jesus, neglects the cross, and instead promises health and wealth is being promoted by some of America's most well-known preachers today.

That's the conclusion of two seminary professors whose new book, *Health, Wealth & Happiness* (Kregel), critiques what is often called the prosperity or health & wealth gospel — the claim by some of America's most well-known preachers that God desires all Christians to be materially wealthy and physically healthy.

The prosperity gospel is dangerous, the professors say, because it contains just enough truth to make it appear biblical but more than enough distortions to make it heretical. That, they say, has led Christians to become discouraged in their faith or angry at God, or worse, to walk away from the church for good. After all, if a preacher says that enough faith can make a sick person well, and no healing ensues, then according to the preachers that person's faith is weak.

One study quoted in the book found that 50 of the 260 largest churches in America promote the prosperity gospel.

"If Christianity is supposed to be about God and His glory and is supposed to be about Christ, and we're making it about us — that's the worst thing we could do," one of the authors, David W. Jones, told Baptist Press. Jones is associate professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. "It is so catering to the flesh and it so exalts man that it gets to the point where you obscure Christ."

The prosperity gospel, Jones says, is a "pagan teaching with a Christian face."

The book, co-authored with Russell W. Woodbridge, a missionary in Eastern Europe who is an adjunct professor at Southeastern Seminary, gives the history of the prosperity gospel movement, interacts with quotes from some of the most well-known prosperity gospel preachers, and ends by giving a "corrective" — that is, an explanation of the historical, biblical teaching on suffering, wealth, poverty, and giving.

Jones and Woodbridge distinguish between what they consider soft advocates of the prosperity gospel (Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer) and more staunch advocates (Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland).

Baptist Press recently spoke with Jones. Following is a partial transcript:

BP: Why has the prosperity gospel grown when, as you argue in the book, its teachings are overtly unbiblical and contrary to historical Christianity?

Jones: It caters to the fallen human flesh. All of us want Christianity to be about us, and we want to focus upon our own wants and desires and needs. And since our heart is already bent that way, when the prosperity gospel comes along and says, "Christianity is about you, and if you just believe in Jesus you'll be healthy, wealthy and wise," that just resonates with our fallen flesh. People are already primed to hear that message — especially those in our churches that don't know much of their Bibles.

BP: One question people might have is: Are you saying that God no longer heals and that God does not want to bless His people?

Jones: That's a very common question. We don't want people to over-learn the lesson that we're trying to teach in the book. Of course, God still does bless His people, but what it boils down to is this: What is being rich? Is it wealth, having a lot of money, a sports car and a trophy wife? Or is wealth being content with whatever it is that we have? I have five kids and I have a teacher's salary, and so I don't have much but I feel like I am an incredibly wealthy man. So God does want to bless us, but we need to define blessing on God's terms and not on materialistic man-centered terms.

BP: And healing?

Jones: There are several different kinds of healing in Scripture. There is miraculous healing, there is healing that we could say comes through medicine. There is healing of emotions. And there is also ultimate healing — which comes through the death of the believer. When we die, we're in God's presence, and we await a redeemed, resurrected, glorified body; we'll no longer have aching backs, broken legs. It's also a matter of timing: Is it now that we can expect these things or is it later; is it in the resurrection that we can expect these things? We need to first of all properly define health, wealth and happiness, and then we need to say what Scripture has to say about the chronology of it as to when we'll get it. We would say it's later, not now.

BP: What are some of the basic biblical or theological errors of the prosperity gospel?

Jones: First of all, there's a distorted view of God — God is sort of like a cosmic bellhop that we can call upon and He's there to serve us as opposed to us being here to serve Him. No. 2, there's an exalted view of man — [it teaches that] Christianity is ultimately about us and not about Jesus and God's glory. No. 3, there's this idea of mind over

# Health, Wealth & Happiness

Has the Prosperity Gospel Overshadowed the Gospel of Christ?

**DAVID W. JONES**  
**RUSSELL S. WOODBRIDGE**

matter — if you just believe it, it will come true. No. 4, there is an overall fixation upon health and wealth and the idea that if you're just a good person and you love Jesus and tithe, you can expect to have a full wallet and perfect health. No. 5, there is a false idea of salvation itself. [According to the prosperity gospel,] it's not so much that we're saved from eternal damnation, saved from God's wrath, but rather we're saved from the unfulfilling, unprosperous life.

BP: In terms of how the prosperity gospel has spread, what role has TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network) played?

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief operations in New York City and Washington, D.C., scale back after more than two weeks of deployment, and leaders say they continue to receive expressions of thanks from the many who have found respite and comfort through the efforts of volunteers.

### 20 years ago

The "takeover" of the Southern Baptist Convention by "fundamental-conservatives" may be God's judgment on a proud people convinced they were "God's last and only hope," in the opinion of Stan Haste, executive director of the breakaway Southern Baptist Alliance.

### 50 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in annual business session, adopts a record Cooperative Program budget of \$2,600,000 for 1961-62.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

### THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 6, 2011  
VOL. 135  
No. 39

Jesus Christ  
Requests the  
Honor of  
Your  
Presence  
in Heaven!

YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



# BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
© 2005

XIZ BSU UIPV DBTU  
FPXO, P NZ TPVM? BOF  
XIZ BSU UIPV FJTRV-  
JAUAF XJUIJO NA?  
IPQA JO HPF: GPS J  
TIBMM ZAU QSBTA IJN,  
XIP JT UIA IABMUT PG  
NZ DPVOUAOBODA,  
BOF NZ HPF.

QTBMT GPSUZ-  
UISAA:GJWA

Clue: F = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 10:13

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

- Antioch Church, Union,** is hosting a fall family fun festival Oct. 29, 4 - 8 p.m., including Christian clown performance, trunk or treat, carnival games, fellowship meal, cakewalk, LoveNow Band, and hayride. Free.
- Ebenezer Church, Lexington,** is dedicating their new worship center on homecoming day Oct. 9. Services, 10 a.m., with a DVD showing the construction of the new building; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dedication and prayer, 11 a.m., followed by meal. Lynn Nations, Jay Westbrooks, speakers; Skipper Maxwell, music.

## YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

November 8, 2011, is going to be a significant day in the life of our state. It is voting day and we will be electing state officials. Some will be voting on county and local officials. Those decisions will be important and will certainly affect each one of us, but I am convinced that the most important decision that Mississippi will be making that day will be on Amendment 26, which is a change in our state Constitution related to the beginning of life. The entire nation and, in fact, many places in the world will be focused on Mississippi on that day to see what you and I do as we vote on this vital initiative.

If passed, Mississippi will place in its Constitution an amendment that says in essence that life begins at conception. Let me make it clear that this is not a political issue. It is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is not a Tea Party or liberal issue. It is a question of whether the people of Mississippi will go on record saying that the life of a person begins when that life is conceived. It is a moral issue. It is an ethical issue. It is a spiritual issue and it is a vitally important issue. How many times have you, like me, seen some things that have become a part of our culture and wished that you could make a difference?

Maybe you have heard something, experienced something, and wondered how in the world we got in this shape. Well this is your opportunity to make a huge difference not only in Mississippi but across our land. This amendment is not just an anti-abortion position, but it is a pro-life position and will state that the people of Mississippi believe unquestionably that when an egg and a sperm are united in a mother's womb the creation that takes place is a new, separate, and unique individual that deserves the right to be protected, loved, and have the opportunity to live out his or her existence.

Already the national media are talking about what is going to be taking place on November 8. Our Mississippi Supreme Court passed a decision to allow it to be put on the ballot and now the decision is up to you and me. Here is what I would like to encourage each of you to do.

**Number one is to verbalize — spread the word wherever you may be.** In your Sunday School class, church, and social groups, help people to understand how important this decision is. If you need additional information, you can go to the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Website: [www.christianaction.com](http://www.christianaction.com) or you can call their office at 601-292-3329 or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329,



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

and they stand ready to help you not only to understand but to help others to do likewise. This is a big, big deal!

Do you remember when we collected 50 million pennies and they sat on the corner of the Baptist Building property as a silent witness to each of the children whose lives had been cut short by abortion since *Roe v. Wade* and the Supreme Court decision allowing legalized abortions? That number continues to escalate far past 50 million. The argument that is made in the sterile courtroom setting has to do with whether or not a person is a person until they have viable life outside of the womb. We now know scientifically that this is a viable human being inside the womb.

Just think about it! If a small sample of tissue was taken from that newly developing embryo, the DNA would show a distinct, one of a kind, human being that was growing. It would be same DNA if a sample was taken at birth, and it would be the same DNA on the day that this child starts to the first grade. The same DNA would be matched up on the day they finish college. If they live to be of a ripe old age, you got it: this

same identifying DNA would be present. So I encourage each of you to thoughtfully help others to understand that it is important for us to express ourselves by voting YES on Amendment 26.

**Second is to visualize.** Just look at the significance of what we are doing. I am not sure that we have ever had and certainly not in my lifetime been presented with the possibility of making a decision that will have ramifications reaching across our nation. It is a life protecting position, and it is a biblical position. One person said to me that the national media is going to beat us up and they will not agree with us on this position. I doubt that they will, but how many times have you disagreed with their positions and did not have the opportunity to do or say anything about it? In this vote, you have a say. You can make a difference!

While it is an important cultural decision, I would ask you

to look closer and visualize the reality that if we would just do it, Mississippi Baptists can go to the polls, vote YES, and almost single handedly make the right decision.

**Third — go vote!** While I want you to talk about it and I want you to see the possible impact from it, nothing will matter if you do not vote. While I would encourage you to go to the polls and vote for the candidates that you feel would be best for your community and state, I would not even begin to think about telling you for whom to vote, but on this issue, because its roots sink deep into the fabric of who we are as a people, I would ask you to go and be supportive at the polls. You may hear that it will be contested in the courts and that may be true. You may also hear that it will be ruled unconstitutional and that remains to be seen. What will be true is that we will have done the right thing and even equally as important we will have provided the inspiration and the encouragement for other states to possibly rise up and take the same action. One thing is for sure: if we do nothing, we will miss a choice opportunity for making a decision that will reverberate all across our land. **Vote YES on Amendment 26.**

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

**NEED TO DOWNSIZE? CLARK ESTATE SALES CAN HELP!** Estate Sales Experts Turn assets into cash in 14 days. Honest - Professional - References. 601-317-2536. [www.nickclark-auctions.com](http://www.nickclark-auctions.com). Certified Appraiser. Statewide Service. No upfront fees or expenses. We do 100% of the work.

**FOR SALE BY SEALED BID: ONE 1999 ENCLOSED TRAILER 8FT. X 24FT.** Previously used for disaster relief, some equipment included. Contact First Baptist Church Madison for more information. 601-856-6177 or [gholder@fbcmadison.org](mailto:gholder@fbcmadison.org)

**LAKELAND BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Lakeland is located in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Those considered will have a seminary degree and at least 5 years successful experience. Lakeland offers a competitive salary and benefit package. Please email the resume to Dr. Ron Osborne [rosborne@lakelandbaptist.org](mailto:rosborne@lakelandbaptist.org)

**GATLINBURG CONDO FOR RENT:** 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, walk to pkwy. \$70/night. 832-922-0401/pdlw4760@att.net

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED BAY, ALABAMA, IS SEEKING A FULL TIME SENIOR PASTOR.** We are a conservative, evangelistic congregation of about 600 members with an average attendance of over 200. Send resume to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 616, Red Bay, Alabama 35582 or email [firstbaptist110@bellsouth.net](mailto:firstbaptist110@bellsouth.net)

**GET THE BEST RATES ON:** Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit [www.turnerinsuranceonline.com](http://www.turnerinsuranceonline.com)

**SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON,** Christian-owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

**FOR SALE: CHURCH FURNITURE** including pulpit, communion table, (28) 12 ft. light stain pine padded pews, all in excellent condition. 601-644-0001

**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992.** Call 800-605-2970

**STUDENT MINISTER:** Southside Baptist Church, Andalusia, Alabama, is currently seeking a full-time student minister to work with 6th grade through college age students. Please send resume to Student Minister Search Committee, Southside Baptist Church, 1213 W. By Pass, Andalusia, AL 36420; 334-222-4300.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES.** Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss. phone 601-776-6617.

**STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS AND REPAIRS.** Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

**BETSY'S LIL CABINS —** Get away to a touch of country — for a brochure call 601-940-6841

**AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS** Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, AL. Rent Direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. Fall Special 4 Nights Eff Unit (2 adults & kids) \$365.00. Includes Everything. 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom units also available. Even lower prices for those in the Ministry. 205-556-0368 205-752-1231. [www.gulfshorescondos.com](http://www.gulfshorescondos.com)

**EVERYDAY HOUSE CLEANING AND ORGANIZING — PET FRIENDLY — "HIGHLY RECOMMENDED."** 601-918-6947.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC.,** old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian.** Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

# 'Courageous' takes first place among new movies

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Courageous, the latest Christian motion picture from the Georgia Baptist church that brought Facing the Giants and Fireproof to the big screen, earned over nine million dollars during its nationwide opening weekend to score first place among all motion pictures released in the same time period, according to movie tracking web site boxofficemojo.com.

Dolphin Tale, released a week ahead of Courageous, led overall weekend ticket sales followed by Moneyball, also released a week ahead of Courageous, and The Lion King (3-D), which was released two weeks ahead of Courageous. Courageous placed fourth overall.

Courageous is the fourth release from Sherwood Pictures, the movie-making ministry of Sherwood Church in Albany, Georgia, which is pastored by Pascagoula native and Mississippi College graduate Michael Catt. The church's last release, Fireproof, was the number one independent film of 2008.

Hollywood insiders closely watch per-screen income as an indication of a movie's financial health. Courageous opened on 1,161 screens nationwide and averaged \$7,806 per screen. By way of comparison, Dolphin Tale played on 3,515 screens in the same time period but averaged only \$3,958 per screen.

The financial numbers, however, tell only part of the story.

"What I liked about Courageous is that no one personality really stood out," said Shelby Hazzard, associational missions director for Washington County. "The movie presented a lot of average, ordinary people in the everyday struggle of life, so the audience could connect with most any of the characters in the movie in portions of the character's lives."

"The opening scene was really gripping. The carjacking really sucked me in, and it put you on the edge of your seat. There were parts of the movie that were really funny. At the same time, it was deeply moving and sad, and the movie did a really good job with getting you involved with Adam [the main character] and his wife."

Hazzard pointed out that the Gospel was clearly presented during the course of the movie. He saw Courageous at Nelco theaters in Greenville, and "the only seats not filled were the ones on the very front row."

Some pastors and churches promoted the film in unique ways. David Aultman, pastor of First Church, Gautier, said, "About two months ago, I realized the movie was coming and not many people in our community knew about it or were talking about it. It wasn't going to be shown in Jackson County. I got on the Courageous website and signed up to be an Action Squad Leader."

"After a couple of weeks of not hearing anything, I got Tom Crocker from LifeWay to make a call, and within a few minutes I had a lady from Provident Films call me. We have a small community and small theaters, so I had to try to convince her as to why we should have it. I told her that the pastor of Sherwood Church, Michael Catt, is from Jackson County and grew up in Pascagoula. She told me, 'I'll fight with Sony [the distributor] to get it here.'"

"I communicated with Jackson County Association and told them that we had to guarantee 1,000 tickets the first weekend. Long story short, we were able to get a sellout crowd for a Thursday night preview showing, and we had sellouts in the evenings and for maybe two matinees during the weekend."

John Temple, pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Church in Meridian, had another plan on how the movie could be offered to the community. "We bought two Saturday morning (theaters) for law enforcement and their families only. The reason we did that is because the average law enforcement guy isn't going to go into a dark room and not know who is sitting behind him."

"We felt like with the emphasis on law enforcement that Courageous has, we'd make it available to just them. Saturday we had 59 to show up, which included law enforcement officers and their wives and children. At the end

of the movie we gave an appeal, among other things, to ask them if they'd make the commitment to be a godly father, to be a godly husband of integrity, and to commit their lives to serve the Lord. We wanted to give them a copy of the resolution that was presented in the movie, free of charge. We're going to show it again this Saturday and we anticipate an even bigger crowd."

"We also provided a meal from Chick-Fil-A for the whole family. We gave Bibles to every law enforcement person there, and a book written by a cop in California who used the passage from Ephesians 6 to equate the spiritual armor in that passage to the armor of a policeman. We also gave away some door prizes, several Courageous calendars, and two \$50 gift cards to a real nice restaurant in town."

"We invited law enforcement from three counties, and we let police chaplains deal with the decision process at the end of the movie. After next weekend, we're going to approach the law enforcement agencies in our county and see if we can start accountability groups that would meet away from the station."

While Courageous appears to be primarily for men and fathers, moms will find plenty to love in the movie, too. Angie Hazzard, Shelby's wife, said, "I thought the movie was wonderful, moving, and a much-needed message in our culture

today. Across the board, many men aren't fulfilling the role of father like they might have in past generations. The movie has a lot to say about the family unit and about what God expects from the family model."

"My mother is on her fourth marriage, and I never really had a father in my life, so for me it was encouraging to see different scenarios of how people deal in situations where there isn't a father. I've seen two or three of those scenarios play out in my own life. I never really had a relationship with my biological father, and there never was anyone else my mother married to step up and fulfill that role in my life, so it was encouraging to me and maybe would be to other families."

"As a father of a nine-year-old son, it really touches me to think of how important it is to protect our families," said Philip Price, associational missions director for Jackson County Association. "You have a movie where you have these police officers risking their lives for their communities, but they aren't necessarily protecting their families. You have to ask, 'what's really important in the end?'"

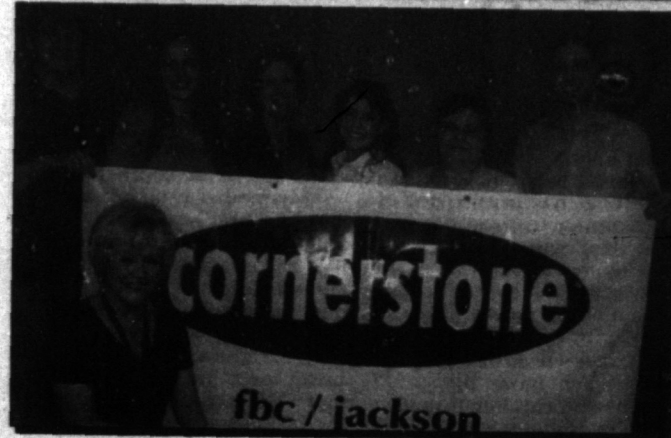
"We do a lot of good things, but we're called to be right in the center of God's perfect will for our lives. God has called us to be more than just good."

Editor's note: For more information on Courageous, visit [www.courageousthemovie.com](http://www.courageousthemovie.com).

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Corinth Church, Singleton:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Ross Holleyman, speaker; John Sharp, pastor.
- McAdams Church, Sallis:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; John Robert Ballard, speaker; James Young, pastor.
- Siloam Church, West Point:** Homecoming, Oct. 9, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Joe Senter, speaker; William Tiffin, music.
- Spring Hill Church, Hazlehurst:** Revival, Oct. 9 - 12; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Stan Weatherford, speaker; Joel Haire, pastor.
- Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Oct. 9 - 12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; James Young, speaker; Faye and Reuben Moore, music; Dennis Duval, pastor.
- Holly Springs Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and singing, 1:30 p.m.; Kevin Crozier, speaker; The Lees and other guests, music; Ron Jordan, pastor.
- County Line Church, Crystal Springs:** Revival, Oct. 10 - 13, 7 p.m.; Tyson Windom and Jerry Mixon, speakers.
- Linwood Church, Union:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Gary Johnson, speaker.
- Providence Church, Grenada:** Revival, Oct. 9 - 12; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Jackson, speaker.
- First Church, Burnsville:** 175th anniversary, Oct. 9, 2 p.m., followed by reception; Stanley Magill, speaker; Martha Magill, music.
- Paynes Church, Tallahatchie County:** Revival, Oct. 9 - 12; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gerald Shook, speaker; special music each service; Gene Foshee, pastor.
- McCool Church, Attala Association:** Homecoming and 125th anniversary, Oct. 9; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and special music.
- Franklin Church, Flora:** Revival, Oct. 9 - 12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Billy Smith, speaker; David Westbrooks and Ronnie Parker, music.
- Ackerman Church, Ackerman:** Revival, Oct. 9 - 12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bob Irvin, speaker; Chris Jenkins, music; Danny Irvin, pastor.
- Immanuel Church, Greenwood:** Annual day, Oct. 9; service, 10:30 a.m. followed by potluck dinner; John Shackelford, speaker. Revival, Nov. 6 - 9; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Rick Spencer, speaker.
- North Calvary Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Lawrence Runnels, speaker; Sherry Irons, music; Eugene Dobbs, pastor.
- Mesa Church, Tylertown:** 100th anniversary, Oct. 8 - 9; Sat., church picnic, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun., services, 10 a.m., with a time of remembering, followed by covered dish lunch; Tommy King, speaker.
- Harmony Church, Lincoln:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; worship, 10 a.m.; singing, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Larry Eikenloff, speaker; Southern Praise, music; Owen King, pastor.
- Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty Association:** Revival, Oct. 7 - 9; Fri. - Sat., 6 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Rick Kennedy, speaker; Glen Gatlin, music; Jerry Causey, pastor.
- Bay Springs Church, Oxford:** 175th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 16; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and music by the Bluff City Quartet and the Lost Tyme Blue Grass Gospel Singers; Paul Brown, speaker; Baptist Historical Commission will present 175th anniversary certificate.
- River Bend Church, Monroe Association:** Revival, Oct. 9 - 12; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mickey Dalrymple, speaker; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, worship leaders; Roy McHenry, pastor.
- Clear Branch Church, Florence:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; services, 19:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Wiley Reid, speaker; Jonathan Sherwin, pastor.

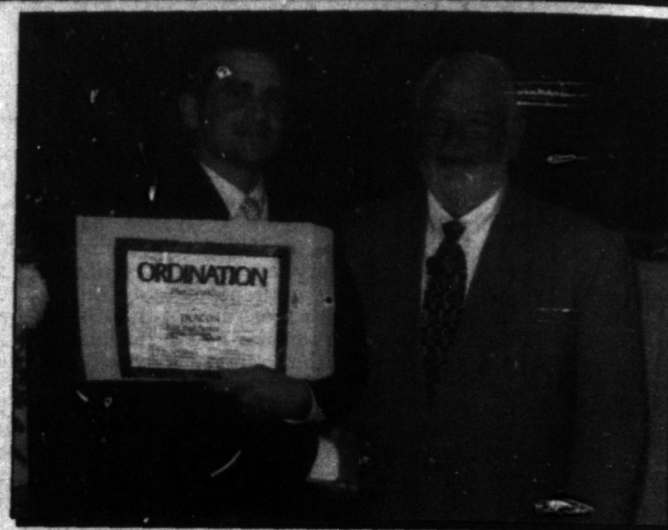




1. First Church, Jackson



1. First Church, Jackson, has recently formed Cornerstone Choir, directed by Eva Hart (seated). Leadership team, shown, includes Taylor and Catherine Sledge, Barbara Hutchins, Emily Agent, Deborah Bolen, and Christopher Weeks. The choir is made up of 10th-12th graders.



5. Dees ordination



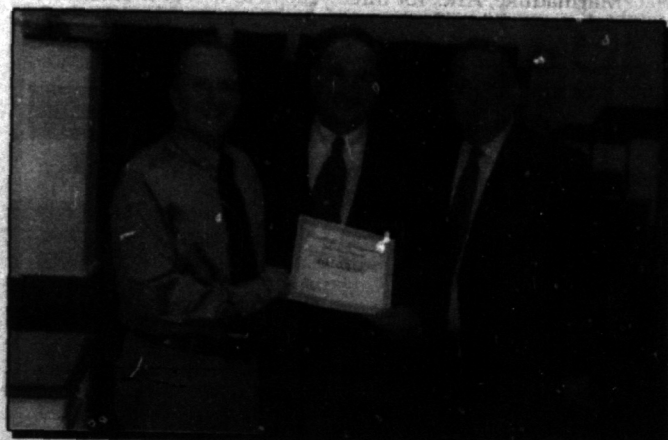
2. Rutland ordination

2. Topeka Church, Jayess, ordained Maurice Rutland as deacon Sept. 18. Shown are pastor Dale Authement, Rutland, wife Wendy, daughter Gracie, and son, Jonah.



6. Handsboro Church, Gulfport

3. Star Church, Star, ordained David Bynum as deacon Sept. 25. Shown are John Edmonson, Bynum, and pastor Vic Bowman.



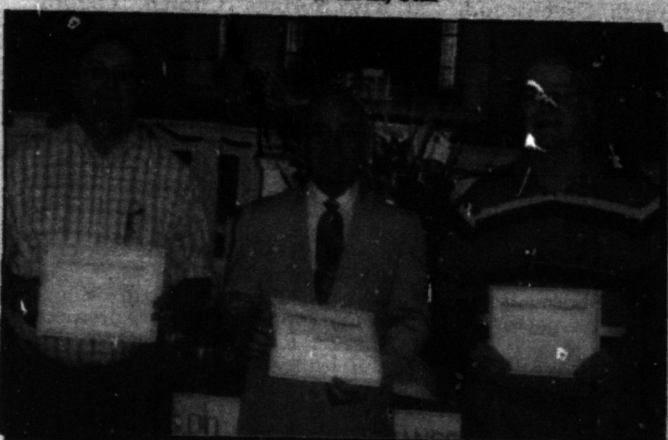
3. Star Church, Star

4. First Church, Durant, ordained David Rogers, Kenneth Dickerson, and David Truitt as deacons Aug. 7. Shown are the three men.



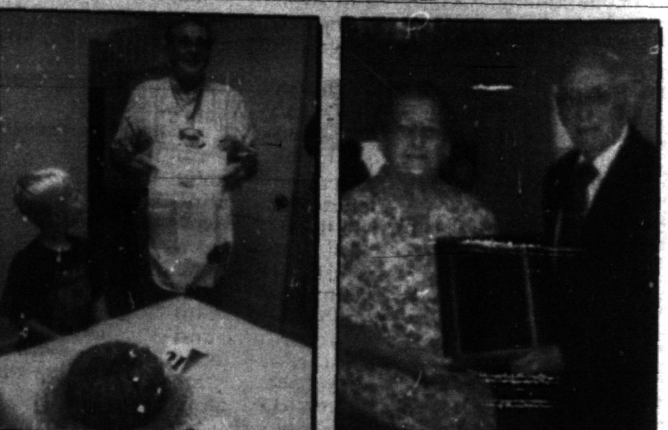
7. Davis ordination

5. East End Church, Columbus, ordained Martin Dees as deacon Aug. 28. Shown are Dees and pastor Albert Wilkerson presenting the certificate.



4. First Church, Durant

6. Handsboro Church, Gulfport, held a special heroes service Sept. 11 to honor and thank local police, firefighters, and military. Shown are some of the honorees.



8. Williams

7. New Zion Church, Monticello, ordained Elijah Davis to the pastoral ministry recently. Shown are pastor Jeff Davis, Davis, and Davis' fiancée Kristen Fitzgerald.

9. Moore presentation

8. Dalton Williams, Jr., shown, a member of Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg, won the best overall cake award for his caramel pound cake at the men's cake bake.

9. New Prospect Church, Leake Association, presented a plaque of appreciation to Vera Moore for 50 years of service as church clerk and treasurer Sept. 25. Shown are Moore and pastor Jobe Miller.

## World Hunger Fund teaches, nourishes India families



**LEARNING TO FARM** — A woman in India picks tomatoes in a field prepared and cultivated through FAITH (Food Always in the Home) garden techniques. This test plot places the FAITH gardens technique next to the traditional farming methods so villagers can see the huge difference in yield. (BP photo)

INDIA (BP) — The young mother rushes out to Saachi Sarkar (not her real name) as she walks up the jungle path to the village. The mother is all smiles as the two embrace.

"It's working," the mother says, excitedly pulling the older woman to the vegetable garden. "See? We did everything just like you taught and now there's enough here to feed us and even some left over to sell."

The pair walks the rows of flourishing tomatoes and beans, stopping to pluck off a dead

leaf. It's only been a few months since Sarkar taught the FAITH (Food Always in the Home) gardens workshop sponsored by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, but it's already taking root in this impoverished community in India.

The goal of the program is to bring about transformation by teaching villagers to not only grow food for themselves but to also sell the excess in the market.

As Sarkar asks about organic fertilizer, she snuggles the young mother's baby and notices a

marked improvement in his health from her last visit. The sores on his body are gone. His hair is losing the orange-tint of malnutrition and he is energetic.

This in itself is a big sign that the nutrition lessons and growing their own healthy vegetables are taking hold. In India, UNICEF estimates more than 147 million children under age five suffer from malnourishment. Sarkar estimates every child in this village suffers, as well as the adults who gather around her.

"Are you eating your dark green, leafy vegetables?" Sarkar asks. In India, most mothers are anemic because they do not get enough iron. A woman in the crowd answers, "Yes, we are doing exactly as you said."

"We even meet to pray now," the woman continues, quickly glancing to the tree line not more than 400 feet away, where bands of terrorists live and roam. "Since we started doing that every day, there is much peace in our village."

Sarkar nods her head in understanding. This area is known for terrorist activity. Even though she can't see the men with guns and bombs, she knows they are watching. Not many outsiders venture this far into the jungle. The terrorist group allows her entry because she has something useful to teach — farming and nutrition.

"Hunger is a result of poverty, and poverty is the main reason there are terrorists in this

area. They join 'the cause' so their stomachs will be filled," Sarkar explains. "With this program, we can change the fate of communities — physically, economically, and spiritually."

"FAITH gardens are a great tool God has given us so we may enter unreached areas like this," Sarkar says, explaining that as a result of sharing Christ's love through caring for physical needs, more than 50 prayer cells have started.

Sarkar's team estimates they will reach more than 29,000 adults and children through 14 FAITH garden workshops this year. The World Hunger Fund, channeled through Southern Baptist humanitarian workers,

helps with the \$443 cost of supplies and starter seeds for each training session.

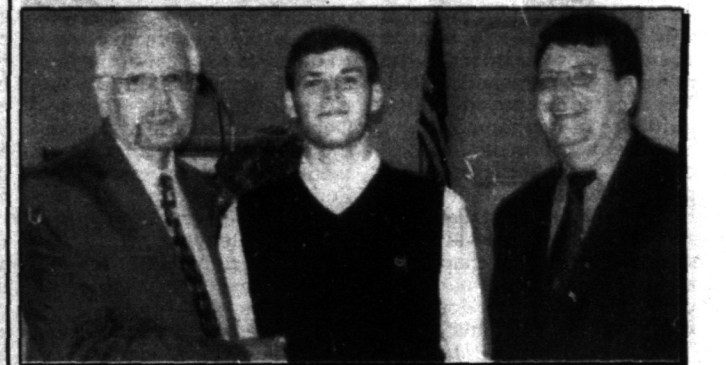
For just 21 cents per person, hunger and malnutrition are tackled at a grass-roots level, with one Indian teaching another to grow their own nutritious food and sustainable crops. Sarkar's goals are for malnutrition to be a thing of the past and for families to earn enough money from their vegetable gardens to send their children to school, putting an end to the poverty/terrorism cycle in this part of the jungle.

*Editor's note: For more stories about the World Hunger Fund at work overseas, go to [www.asiastories.com](http://www.asiastories.com).*

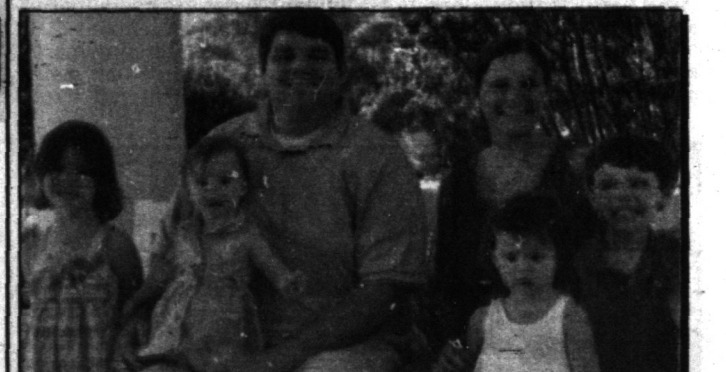
## STAFF CHANGES

1. Ben Yarber, pastor of Faith Church, West Point, is shown welcoming Jordan Smith as youth minister (center) and Ken Talley as music minister. They assumed their duties Sept. 7.

2. Hardy Street Church of Hattiesburg has called David M. O'Dell of Austell, Georgia, as its senior pastor. O'Dell, senior pastor of First Church, Austell, Ga., will be the first pastor for the newly named Hardy Street Church, formerly the east campus of Temple Church. He will assume his duties at Hardy Street in October. He is a native of Little Rock, Ark., and has served as senior pastor of First Church, Austell, for the past four years. He was pastor of young families at Sandy Plains Church in Marietta, Ga., for one year, minister in residence at First Church of Atlanta, Ga., for one year and student pastor at First Church of Marmaduke, Ark., for three years. He was graduated from Arkansas State University and earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife Heather have four children: Carter, Summer, Tilly and Story.



1. Faith Church, West Point



2. The O'Dells

## World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 9

Oct. 9 is World Hunger Sunday for Southern Baptist churches across North America. Since 1974, Southern Baptists have fought the problem of hunger through their World Hunger Fund. One hundred percent of every dollar given to the fund is used to provide food to undernourished people all over the world — 80% through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Richmond, Va., and 20% through the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Alpharetta, Ga. For more information on the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, including resources for promotion of World Hunger Sunday in your church, go to [www.worldhungerfund.com](http://www.worldhungerfund.com).

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST**  
**World**  
**hunger**  
**FUND**

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. Mississippi College is hosting a family weekend Oct. 7-8, including tailgating on the Quad, a student talent show, a Choctaws football game, soccer contests, and tribal breakfasts. There are some costs to attend Family Weekend events, including the showings of "Guys and Dolls," (\$15 for adults and \$10 for students), the Saturday dinner on the Quad (\$10) and the football game (\$4). Contact Joseph Odenwald for more information on ticket prices, and other activities during this fun-filled weekend in Clinton. He can be reached at (601)

925-3248 or [odenwald@mc.edu](mailto:odenwald@mc.edu). Also visit [www.mc.edu/familyweekend](http://www.mc.edu/familyweekend) for more details.

2. Mississippi College was recently named the recipient of national honor society Alpha Lambda Delta's Delta Gold award for an amazing 168 percent increase in chapter membership over a year's span. The Christian university's membership increased from 57 students to 153 undergraduates in 2010-2011, and more growth ahead is anticipated this year.



# Iran adds new charges in campaign to execute pastor

WASHINGTON (BP) — Pressure on Iran continues to build for the release of Christian pastor Yousef Nadarkhani, who is facing a death sentence as the U.S. State Department issued its first statement and a leading religious liberty organization urged Christians worldwide to contact Iran's United Nations ambassador.



Nadarkhani

In the meantime, the capital charge of "apostasy from Islam" that Nadarkhani faces has been upgraded to include allegations of rape, extortion, and national security, CNN reported on Saturday. Critics of the radical Islamic theocracy ruling Iran have accused the government of adding the charges to bolster their case for executing Nadarkhani.

The pastor refused to recant Christianity four times last week and could be executed any day for his faith. A court sentenced him to death because his parents are Muslim and he is a Christian. Iranians born into

the Muslim faith are prohibited from converting to any other religion, under threat of death.

The State Department issued a statement that mentions Nadarkhani and says the United States remains "deeply concerned by reports

of the Iranian government's continued repression of its people." The statement also says the department remains "particularly concerned" about the pastor.

"The United States stands with the international community and all Iranians against the Iranian government's hypocritical statements and actions, and we continue to call for a government that respects the human rights and freedom of all those living in Iran," the statement says.

The statement came a day after the White House urged Nadarkhani's release, saying a death sentence by Iran "violates the religious values they claim to defend." Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner and British Foreign Secretary William Hague also have spoken out.

International Christian Concern (ICC), which monitors religious liberty around the world, began urging Christians

to call or email Mohammad Khazaei, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations. (Contact information: (212) 687-2020 and iran@un.int)

"Throughout his imprisonment, [Nadarkhani] has trusted in the Lord and has been a bold witness of the redeeming work of Christ in his life," ICC said in a statement, adding that the pastor "has learned to delight in hardships and persecution for Christ's sake (2 Cor. 12:10)."

Meanwhile, Iran's Pars News Agency reported Friday that Nadarkhani was to be put to death for rape and extortion — charges not present in any previous court document since his 2009 arrest, CNN reported. Nadarkhani's defenders have embarrassed the government by pointing out that Iran does not have a law defining apostasy as a capital offense.

Religious liberty experts immediately defended Nadarkhani, calling the charges false. "They are feeling the

attention, they are feeling the weight of the eyes of the world watching how they are treating this man," Todd Nettleton, spokesman for Voice of the Martyrs, told CNN. "I am dumbfounded, though, that at this stage in the game this is what they would trot out."

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, another religious liberty group, sent out a Tweet saying that it has "court documents that are very specific" in charging the pastor only with apostasy.

Nadarkhani's refusal to recant has inspired Christians worldwide. The American Center for Law and Justice reported one of Nadarkhani's court exchanges: "Repent means to return. What should I return to? To the blasphemy that I had before my faith in Christ?" he asked.

"To the religion of your ancestors, Islam," the judge reportedly replied. "I cannot," Nadarkhani responded.

# Obama administration clears same sex marriages for military bases

WASHINGTON (BP) — Same sex marriage ceremonies may be conducted on military bases by military chaplains, the Pentagon announced in a controversial decision Sept. 30. Critics said the new policy violates the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage in federal law as being only between a man and a woman.

The Department of Defense (DOD) made clear the policy for its chaplains and facilities only 10 days after its ban on open homosexuality in the military was officially lifted. The Pentagon provided the guidance in two memos.

A Sept. 30 memo said a chaplain may participate in a private wedding at or away from a military installation if such a ceremony is legal at the state or local level. A chaplain is not required to take part in a private ceremony if doing so would conflict with his or her "religion or personal beliefs," according to the guidance.

The memo also says a chaplain's participation does not amount to a DOD endorsement of the ceremony. Although the memo does not specifically mention same sex marriage, it

makes clear its issuance came in response to the repeal of the ban on open homosexuality.

In a Sept. 21 memo announced at the same time, the Pentagon said decisions about the use of military facilities for private occasions "should be made on a sexual-orientation neutral basis, provided such use is not prohibited by applicable state and local laws," the American Forces Press Service reported.

"It is outrageous that only 10 days after repeal of the law against homosexuality in the Armed Forces, the Defense Department is already pushing the military further down the slippery slope," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, in a written statement.

Tony Perkins is not related to William Perkins, editor of The Baptist Record.

"The repeal law passed by the lame-duck Congress last year said nothing about authorizing same-sex weddings on military bases or by military chaplains. DOMA remains the law in America, defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman for all pur-

poses under federal law," said Perkins, who called on the White House "to end its multi-front attack upon marriage."

Opponents of DOMA applauded the decisions. "There are many chaplains in the military who simply do not believe that gay and lesbian servicemembers are second-class citizens, and those chaplains should have the freedom to practice their religion as they see fit, including officiating at ceremonies that their denominations recognize," said Alex Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United, according to the Washington Blade, a leading newspaper for homosexuals.

The guidance provided by the Pentagon closely resembled a memo on the subject issued by the Navy in April before being pulled in May after criticism from more than 60 members of Congress. At the time, Chief of Chaplains Rear Adm.

Mark Tidd said he was suspending his authorization for Navy chaplains to perform same sex weddings on base pending "additional legal and policy review" and enhanced cooperation with other branches of the military. The Washington Post reported.

After learning of Tidd's original memo, 63 members of the House of Representatives wrote Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, former governor of Mississippi, to complain.

"Offering up federal facilities and federal employees for same-sex marriages violates DOMA, which is still the law of the land and binds our military, including chaplains," they wrote.

DOMA, which was signed into law by President Clinton in 1996, not only defines marriage in federal law as being between a man and a woman, but it empowers states to refuse to recognize another state's same sex marriages.

# Bible readers lay out preferences in Lifeway survey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Most American Bible readers prefer word-for-word translations of the original Greek and Hebrew over thought-for-thought translations, saying they value accuracy over readability, according to a new Lifeway Research study.

The study encompassed 2,000 Bible readers who participated through a demographically representative online panel. To qualify, participants had to read the Bible in a typical month either by themselves or as part of a family activity and not merely in a church or group setting.

When asked whether they prefer "word-for-word" translations, where the original words are translated as exactly as possible, or "thought-for-thought" translations, where the translators attempt to reproduce the intent of the original thought rather than translating the exact words, 61% chose word-for-word.

That includes 33% who strongly prefer word-for-word translation and 28% who somewhat prefer it. In contrast, 20% prefer thought-for-thought, including six percent with a strong preference and 14% who somewhat prefer it. Fourteen percent say both translation philosophies are equally fine, and five percent are not sure.

Regarding accuracy, respondents were asked, "In general, what is more important to you in a Bible: total accuracy to the original words, or easy readability?" Three out of four (75%) opt for total accuracy, with 43% saying accuracy is much more

important and 32% saying it is somewhat more important.

Fourteen percent say easy readability is somewhat more important, and eight percent say it is much more important. Three percent are not sure.

"It is interesting to note that Bible sales do not necessarily follow these preferences," said Scott McConnell, director of Lifeway Research. "Those reading the Bible each month represent only a portion of all Bible purchasers. Bible readers can share their preferences for different translation principles but may not be aware of which characteristics are present in specific translations — even the ones that they own."

"Without specific instruction, most readers will not notice when a translation moves away from a literal or word-for-word translation."

Respondents hold a variety of opinions regarding the style of language they prefer in a Bible translation for personal reading. Among them:

- 68% want language to be simpler to understand while seven percent want it to be more difficult to understand.

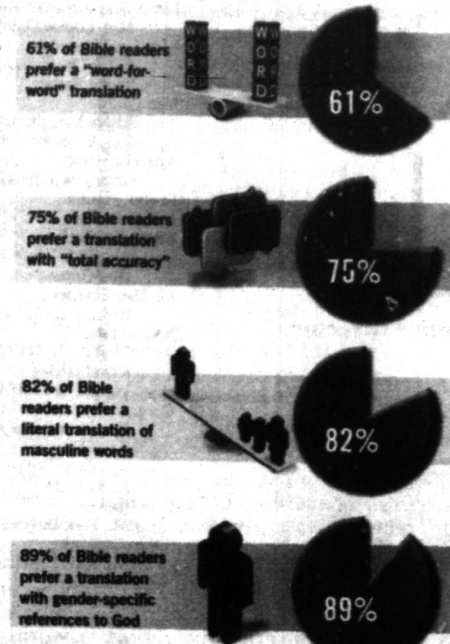
- 81% say it should be more enjoyable to read while four percent prefer it to be more of a chore to read.

- 27% favor contemporary language while 46% want traditional language.

- 36% want more modern language while 37% favor more old-fashioned language.

- 19% feel understanding the language should require a higher level of education while 49% say it should not require a higher level of education.

## Bible readers survey



- 63% believe it should be simple for anyone to understand while 14% say the language should be meant more for people who have a lot of experience with the Bible.

- 40% prefer more formal language while 26% say it should be more informal.

- 22% want language more for casual reading while 44% say it should be designed more for in-depth study.

"In the same way drivers want big, powerful, fuel-efficient vehicles, Bible readers want word-for-word translations that are easy to understand," McConnell said. "As translators try to cross the globe and two millennia, fully accomplishing both is not always possible."

The survey also asked about translation of God's name. Though many Bible versions translate God's name in the Old Testament as "the LORD," others prefer using what is believed to be the original pronunciation, "Yahweh."

Nearly eight in 10 Bible readers (79%) prefer the traditional translation "the LORD" over the original pronunciation "Yahweh." That includes 51% who strongly prefer "the LORD" and 27% who somewhat prefer it. Seven percent somewhat prefer "Yahweh" while six percent strongly prefer it. Eight percent are not sure which they favor.

The vast majority of Bible readers do not prefer gender-inclusive translation approaches. A full 82% prefer a literal translation of masculine words that describe people in general rather than a

more inclusive translation like "humankind" or "person."

Study participants were told: "Bible translators have to make choices regarding gender issues. For example, the original Greek and Hebrew often uses masculine words such as those literally meaning 'man' to describe people in general. Some translators think these should be translated literally as 'man' while others think they should be translated into gender-inclusive terms such as 'humankind,' 'human being,' 'person' or 'one.' Which do you prefer?"

A majority (53%) strongly prefer literal translation while 29% somewhat prefer the literal rendering. Only nine percent somewhat prefer gender-inclusive translation, and three per-

cent strongly prefer it. Six percent are not sure.

Bible readers are even more adamant about not making references to God gender-inclusive.

They were told, "Another issue Bible translators face relates to references to God as 'father' in the Greek and Hebrew. Some translators think these should be translated literally as 'father' while others think they should be translated into gender-inclusive terms such as 'parent.' Do you prefer the literal or more gender-inclusive?"

In response, 89% want a literal translation of gender-specific references to God, including 68% who strongly prefer literal translation and 21% who somewhat prefer literal translation. Five percent somewhat prefer gender-inclusive translation, and two percent strongly prefer gender-inclusive translation. Four percent are not sure.

"The places in the Bible in which the inspired writers used masculine words for God, a large majority of Bible readers want translators to use masculine words as well," McConnell noted. "This is true regardless of whether the reader describes their own spiritual beliefs as liberal or conservative."

**Methodology:** The Lifeway Research survey was conducted in August 2011 via online panel. A representative sample of U.S. adult population was invited to participate. Two thousand people who read the Bible once a month or more qualified for the study. Only people who read the Bible personally (outside of group activities) or as part of a family activity were included. The sample of 2,000 provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed +2.2%.

## MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting  
Church, Conference Room, School  
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947  
info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

## MEDICARE Supplement

SAVE Up To  
**40%**

O'Mire  
Financial  
Services  
1.800.844.3254

## CAREGIVERS' CONFERENCE

Affirmations & Caregiver Challenges:  
Caring for the Patient with Cognitive Impairment

For Case Managers, Nurses, Social Workers, & Caregivers  
(CEU credits applied for)

Thursday, October 20  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church Jackson  
Fellowship Hall East  
431 North State Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

To register, call 601.984.1300  
Caregivers: \$15  
Professionals: \$50  
Continental Breakfast & Lunch  
included with registration

Information: Dixie Myrick  
601.815.1974  
dmyrick@umc.edu

**Keynote speaker**  
**JANET EDMUNSON**  
Caregiver of her husband Charles  
Author of *Finding Meaning with Charles*

**Speakers**  
**DR. MARK MEEKS**  
Division Director for Geriatric Medicine  
University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Advice on caring for dementia patients

**DR. TOM MOSLEY**  
Geriatric Neuropsychologist  
Spearheading *The MIND Center*  
(Memory Impairment and  
Neurodegenerative Dementia)

**MOLLY MEEKS, LPC**  
Psychotherapist at Summit Counseling  
Addressing emotional issues  
with nursing home transition

Sponsored by Summit Counseling of First Baptist Church Jackson  
and University of Mississippi Medical Center

Connecting People  
Transforming Lives  
FIRST BAPTIST JACKSON

Summit Counseling  
of the South

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
MEDICAL CENTER

## "Hearing is Believing"

For a FREE consultation call  
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821  
or go online at [www.audioservices.org](http://www.audioservices.org)

Professional Sound  
System Design and  
Installation  
Church / School / Commercial

**audio SERVICES**  
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

## 1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages.

Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at  
601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.

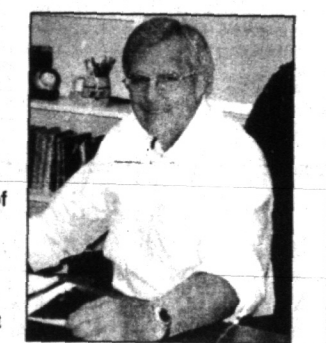
**Wellington Associates, Inc.**

## ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PASTOR BEN CARLISLE RETIRING

Arlington Heights Baptist Church will host a reception for Reverend and Mrs. Ben Carlisle on Sunday, October 9, 2011, at 3:00 pm in the church's Fellowship Hall for the purpose of honoring him upon his retirement as pastor of Arlington Heights. The church cordially invites family, friends, and church members to celebrate this occasion with us.

Bro. Ben has faithfully served as a minister for 42 years with his last 25 years at Arlington Heights Baptist Church, Pascagoula. He also served the following churches in the state of Mississippi: Bethany Baptist Church, Bay Springs; Calhoun Baptist Church, Taylorsville; Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Mt. Olive; and Woodville Baptist Church, Woodville. In addition, he served on various associational committees during his pastorates including budget committee, operational committee, and mission project coordinator where he served as moderator. Bro. Ben served two terms on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as secretary, as well as on the board's Executive committee as secretary, and on the program committee. He was also on the Board of Trustees for William Carey University serving for two terms including one term as chairman.

Bro. Ben and his wife Etta have been married 41 years and are the parents of three daughters, Christi (Steven) Donald, Mary Kathryn Carlisle, Karen (Justin) Graham and granddaughter Amelia. Bro. Ben loves working with people and sharing Christ daily.





# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**  
P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### AUGUST 2011

#### MEMORIALS

Kenny Terry Creswell  
Larry & Pam Gneini  
Larry & Betty Rich  
Donald L. Currie  
Ed & Carolyn Smith  
Kay Cutler  
Wallace & Carol Clay  
Larry Davenport  
Ms. Mary Allen Varnell  
Loyd Dawson  
Mount Pleasant BC,  
Gloster  
James Earl Doyle  
Stanton BC, Natchez  
Orvis Driskell  
Richard & Cathy New  
David Duncan  
Mrs. Helen Brown  
James L. Edmondson Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson  
Mrs. Dorothy Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Ila Ender  
Mrs. Cleo Chamberlin  
Dot Farish  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy B. Eaves

Mrs. Jackie Fava  
Springfield BC, Morton  
Glenda Ferguson  
Dr. & Mrs. A. H. Ward  
Mrs. Evelyn Ford  
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Brewer  
Maxine Franklin  
Mr. Charles Christmas  
Charles L. Frayser  
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries  
Frances B. Frazier  
Mrs. Edwin B. King  
Lettie French  
Mrs. Janeiro L. Cranage  
Mr. Paul Fugate  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder  
Mr. Scott Fulcher  
Mr. & Mrs. Darry Crowell  
Lindsey  
Geneva Gardner  
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner  
Kadie Garner  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Buford & Rudy Griffith  
Mrs. Nell Garrett  
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry  
Claudia Garrison  
Plum Creek Timber  
Company  
Mrs. Wynna Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson

Jr. Boy Goodin  
Bobby & Ann Moody  
Wendy Carol Goodman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Sanders  
Jimmy Grace  
Charles & Wanda  
Christman  
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Grady  
Mrs. Louise D. Williams  
Mrs. Jewell Graeber  
Bill & Deena Barbee  
Terry Barbee  
Jean Gully  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen  
Ray & Peggy Cochran  
Ada Haddock  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Evelyn Hanna  
Mrs. Janeiro L. Cranage  
Mr. Steve Harden  
Gerald & Patricia  
Hasselmann  
Mr. Paul Harper  
Richard & Cathy New  
James Harrell  
Mrs. Evelyn H. Vaughn  
John Harris  
Wallace & Carol Clay  
Cory Wallace Hart  
Barney & Paula Albritton  
Mr. Jimmie Hart  
Gerald & Patricia  
Hasselmann  
Carr Haskins  
Mr. Kirk Haskins  
Susan Haskins  
Mr. Kirk Haskins  
Anita Hatcher  
Bobby & Ann Moody  
Emma Grace Hayes  
Mrs. Martha Moore  
Rusty Henderson  
Arthur & Alicia P. Burnett  
Andy & Genny Cochran  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Bill Hewitt  
Mrs. Betty Jo Hewitt  
Mr. Amos Hite  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents  
Betty Holloway  
L. Goolaby SSC, FBC,  
Crystal Springs  
Dorothy Holloway  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary E.  
Weatherly  
Mrs. Frances Howard  
Ruth SSC, Macedonia BC,  
Mendenhall  
Ron & Betty Bennett  
Phillip & Era Lee Hilton  
Mrs. Frances Howard  
Mendenhall OES Chapter  
Terry & Joyce Cobb  
Arthur Howze Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Rev. W. J. Hughes  
Rev. & Mrs. Oliver C. Ladner  
Betty Lou Irby  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mrs. Frances McCrory Jackson  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Robert E. "Bub" Joiner  
Arthur & Alicia P. Burnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Dr. Amos Jones  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
James W. Jones  
Mims & Susan Berry  
Louis Jones  
Wilber & Nancy Shell

Mr. Frank Matulich  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield  
Arthur Mauriocrat  
Mrs. Montine S. Wooten  
Tom McCary  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Clara McClendon  
Unity BC, Magnolia  
Mrs. Linda S. Campbell  
Ms. Guylene Honea  
Mr. Gene McCrory  
Tee & Laurel Travis  
Mrs. Bobbie D. McDowell  
Mildred McIntosh  
Philadelphia BC, Gore  
Spring  
Hazel McKenzie  
Ms. Mary Jo Brundrett  
Arnold & Pearl Melton  
Larry & Sylvia Melton  
Mr. Walter P. Miller Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie D. Magee  
Nezzie Miller  
Dorcas SSC, FBC, Collins  
Tracy Miller  
James & Maude Dixon  
Gene Austin Millsaps  
Greenwood-Grenada USBC  
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Davis  
Earl & Pearl Millsaps  
Mrs. Ann D. Millsaps  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Buford  
Ellen, John, Jordan &  
Brandon Dockery  
Chester Holley  
Calvin Stodghill  
Joe Howard Minton  
Branch BC, Morton  
Mr. Banger Moss  
Alfred & Billy Ann  
Barfield  
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Haden  
Patty & Beth Sullender  
Essie Myers  
Stanton BC, Natchez  
Lloyd Nations  
Mrs. Mary C. Garrett  
Mr. Claude Neal  
Springfield BC, Morton  
Mrs. Clifton Neal  
Larry Lott's SSC, Holcomb  
BC  
Paul Nunery  
Miss Hattie Nunery  
Willie May O'Bannon  
Billy & Doris West

Mr. John Orr  
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry  
Dell Passer  
Bill & Deena Barbee  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry P. Franklin  
E. C. Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy B. Eaves  
Mr. I. G. "Pat" Patterson  
Mrs. Libby Patterson  
Mrs. Jean P. Harris  
Danny & Gwen Daves  
I. G. & Florence Patterson  
Ms. Carol S. Manning  
Mr. Charlie Payne  
Jerry & Elaine Cuevas  
Geordie D. Peacock  
Ms. Angie Lee  
Ms. Sue Moore  
Mr. Frank Peacock  
Mrs. Mable Pee  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mrs. Modena Petty  
Ms. Mary C. Hammon  
Cuba Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Harrell  
Olivia Poole  
Dr. Jack Q. Causey  
Geraldine Reed  
Mrs. James A. Peeples  
Tincy Rhodes  
Mrs. Billie R. Jones  
Rudell Richardson  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Willard Richmond  
Arlington Heights BC,  
Pascagoula  
Mrs. Pauline W. Roberson  
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge  
Mary Edna Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond  
Duerta  
Mattie Lou Rogers  
Tom & Betty Coward  
Mrs. Blessing Dendy Ryles  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Karen Sampson  
Robert & Janie Thomas  
Grady Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy B. Eaves  
Diane Sandler  
Mr. Howard S. Gary  
Traci Sesser  
Barney & Paula Albritton  
Mrs. Willie Mae Seal  
Dr. & Mrs. B. C. Wolvertson  
Evelyn G. Seale  
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders

Mr. Frank Matulich  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield  
Arthur Mauriocrat  
Mrs. Montine S. Wooten  
Tom McCary  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Clara McClendon  
Unity BC, Magnolia  
Mrs. Linda S. Campbell  
Ms. Guylene Honea  
Mr. Gene McCrory  
Tee & Laurel Travis  
Mrs. Bobbie D. McDowell  
Mildred McIntosh  
Philadelphia BC, Gore  
Spring  
Hazel McKenzie  
Ms. Mary Jo Brundrett  
Arnold & Pearl Melton  
Larry & Sylvia Melton  
Mr. Walter P. Miller Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie D. Magee  
Nezzie Miller  
Dorcas SSC, FBC, Collins  
Tracy Miller  
James & Maude Dixon  
Gene Austin Millsaps  
Greenwood-Grenada USBC  
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Davis  
Earl & Pearl Millsaps  
Mrs. Ann D. Millsaps  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Buford  
Ellen, John, Jordan &  
Brandon Dockery  
Chester Holley  
Calvin Stodghill  
Joe Howard Minton  
Branch BC, Morton  
Mr. Banger Moss  
Alfred & Billy Ann  
Barfield  
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Haden  
Patty & Beth Sullender  
Essie Myers  
Stanton BC, Natchez  
Lloyd Nations  
Mrs. Mary C. Garrett  
Mr. Claude Neal  
Springfield BC, Morton  
Mrs. Clifton Neal  
Larry Lott's SSC, Holcomb  
BC  
Paul Nunery  
Miss Hattie Nunery  
Willie May O'Bannon  
Billy & Doris West

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN NORTH MISSISSIPPI

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent opening in North Mississippi, please contact Celeste Cade at 601-922-2242 or ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Forgiveness Offered

Luke 5: 17-26; 29-32

By Huey Dedmon

One of my favorite stories in scripture happens in our passage for today. It is the story of a group of friends. Among this group of friends we find some very able-bodied men and one man who is paralyzed. Knowing that Jesus was in town and hearing accounts of His miracles, these men decide they want to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus to be healed. As they approach the crowd, they can find no other way to get him before the Lord except through the roof. From this incredible act of love we learn some incredible lessons.

### Jesus Honors Faith

Luke 5: 17-20

This passage is a reminder to us that we should be bringing our friends to Jesus. Many

times we invite our friends to church and expect our Sunday School teacher or the Pastor to tell them about Jesus. In our study during our F.A.I.T.H. outreach ministry we are talking about "Praying in Faith." One of the points we need to realize is that God may want to use us to help our friends find the solution to their "lostness." These men had faith that Jesus was the answer to their friend's physical need. Because of their faith, Jesus forgave his sin and met his physical need to be healed. Second, we are reminded that true faith in God is seen in our actions. We often do not realize our influence as Christians. Our being active or inactive in the work of our church and in the Kingdom of



Dedmon

God speaks volumes to people. We either influence people toward faith in Christ or we influence them away from faith in Christ. When we use our influence to bring people to Jesus, He will honor our faith in Him.

### Jesus Forgives Sin

Luke 5: 21-26

The normal reaction for most of the crowd witnessing this event was astonishment and giving glory to God. But the Scribes and Pharisees were angered. Their thoughts were instantly known by Jesus. He addresses their reasoning by telling the paralyzed man to "get up, pick up your stretcher and go home." (v24, HCSB) Jesus did this so that they would know that He had the authority to forgive sin. The greatest basic need that people have is the spiritual need to know God. Jesus addressed the paralyzed man's physical need, but the reason this story happened in the first place was to

show that Jesus is one with the Father and has the authority to forgive all sin. The physical, emotional, and material needs of people are important and we should help meet these needs. However, our main task is to bring people to Jesus so He can meet their spiritual need for a relationship with Him.

### Jesus Seeks Sinners

Luke 5: 29-32

Soon after the incredible story of a group of friends bringing a paralyzed man to Jesus, we find Him dining with a large group of sinners. He had encountered Levi, a tax collector, and asked if he would follow Him. Levi responded to his new found faith in Jesus by hosting a party to which he invited his friends. As you might guess, his friends were other tax collectors and sinners. The Scribes' and Pharisees' reaction was, "Why are you associating with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus' response was that He came for the sake of sinners. "The healthy don't need a doctor, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous,

but sinners to repentance." (v31-32 HCSB) We are always hearing people talk about where the motivation to do something comes from. This passage gives us, God's people, the only motivation we need to reach out to the lost; Jesus did it! Throughout His ministry we see Jesus associating Himself with the lost. The question we need to ask ourselves is, "How do unbelievers see us?" Are we like the Pharisees or are we like Jesus?

The common thread woven into the fabric of these two events is that Jesus' mission from the Father is to offer hope and forgiveness to sinners. He was criticized for doing so, and we will be criticized, also. His eating with tax collectors and sinners indicates a close association and identification with them. Never forget that we are all sinners saved by grace. I thank God that Jesus does not mind being associated with me!

Dedmon is associate pastor for education and outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE It's All About New Life

Romans 6: 1-16, 22-23

By Marion D. Duncan

Do you ever wonder if the Christian life is all about living our new life in victory because we are now free from sin, then why do we have such a struggle with sin? Romans chapters five and six prepare way for the most detailed discussion in all of Paul's letters in chapter seven on freedom from the law.

Paul used the analogy of a marriage to explain the new freedom from sin when a person is in Christ. Picture an unhappy marriage where the vows have become bonds from which there is no release in the eyes of God except death severs the relationship. But if the husband dies, the woman is free. Death ends the power of the law. The wife is free from the law of marriage and free

to marry another. Because of our identification with Christ in His death, the claims of the Old Testament law are broken "so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit not the old way of the written code." (Romans 7:6, NIV)

In identifying sin against God, the law taught us to recognize sin through exact descriptions of what was considered sin to those who loved God. Therefore, the commandments put temptation in front of man through the attraction of "forbidden fruit" and man's inability to exert self-control in his own power. Did your mother or grandmother ever bake your favorite cookies, invite you to lick the spoon or bowl, leave the cookies in plain view on a plate



Duncan

permeating the air with their scrumptious aroma, then walk out of the kitchen, and tell you not to touch them? Hard to resist sampling just one, wasn't it?

John Phillips in Exploring Romans says that as an unsaved man, Paul found that the law exposed man's (1) hidden nature of sin by revealing his sinful nature. The great function of the Mosaic law is to expose sin. Men seek to cover it up, excuse it, and even camouflage it. They speak of a book as being daring; God would call it filthy. They say a man has had "an affair." God says he has committed adultery. This is one of the games men play, and a deadly and dangerous game it is. It is like taking the "Poison" label from a bottle of poison and replacing it with a label reading "Essence of Peppermint." The result of using it as labeled would be

death. The function of the law is to give sin its proper name and to expose it for what it is.

Before the coming of the law, there was freedom from the accusing conscience, a kind of false peace brought by man's ignorance of losing fellowship with God through sin. The more knowledge we gain of what is sin, the sharper our conscience becomes to our rebellion toward God. Does the "25 mph" sign not make us desire to get by with "35 mph," followed by mild resentment when we read the "Speed Checked by Radar" sign? The law exposes the hidden nature of sin.

Paul found as an unsaved man that the law exposed the (2) hideous nature of sin. The law had the power to reveal sin, but no power to remove sin; it offered no reward for keeping the law, only punishment for breaking the law. So serious is sin that it carries a death sentence in this life and eternal punishment in the next. All sin is against God and is serious enough to earn

eternal punishment. The law cannot save—that is the prerogative of grace.

Paul says he cannot understand what he does because his desire is to obey the law of God, but his sinful nature overrules his heart's desire causing him to do the very thing he hates! He feels like he has a split personality—two men of opposing character living inside of him. Ovid, the Roman poet said, "I see the better things, and I approve them, but I follow the worse." (The Letter to the Romans, Barclay)

Barclay explains this is a part of the human situation: we know to do right, but we do wrong; we are never as good as we know we ought to be. We are haunted by goodness and by sin at the same time. "What a miserable man I am! Who will save me from this body that brings me death? Thank God for saving me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25, NCV)

Duncan is a member and pastor's wife from First Church, Macon.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

# Record

A Baptist Children's Village resident has received the inaugural Tessie Morgan Garner Scholarship awarded by the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama. This scholarship was established to provide for a deserving female resident of The Baptist Children's Village. The recipients are determined by the WMU Foundation Board of Trustees along with the Scholarship Committee of The Baptist Children's Village. The WMU Foundation has over 20 scholarship and grants available for students all across the world. In 2011, the Foundation awarded more than 70 students scholarships and grants totaling over \$49,500. Funds from the Garner Scholarship will allow this BCV resident to complete her education at Blue Mountain College.



# Youth experts: film 'made with a bias and agenda'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Divided, a film about a young man's search for why so many in his generation are abandoning Christianity, is generating discussion about the merits of age-segregated youth ministry versus family integrated churches.

The 54-minute film, available for viewing online at [dividedthemovie.com](http://dividedthemovie.com), follows Philip Leclerc as he interviews youth and youth ministry experts and concludes that modern youth ministry is founded on the ideas of men rather than the Word of God.

Youth ministry expert Walt Mueller, however, characterized the film as one "conceived and made with a bias and agenda that existed long before the first clip was ever shot," and he said Divided is "not so much a documentary as it is a promotional piece for the National Center for Family Integrated Churches (NCFIC)."

Allen Jackson, professor of youth and collegiate ministry at New Orleans Seminary, also expressed concern, stating, "I do not agree with the conclusions, the logic, or even the biblical rationale that led to the conclusions."

Richard Ross, professor of student ministry at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, said ending all church ministries to children and teenagers is not the solution.

Divided has caused such a stir in the blogosphere that the organizers of a major youth ministry gathering, the D6 Conference, disinvited the NCFIC from being an exhibitor during its Sept. 21-23 sessions in Dallas.

Divided posits that age-segregated youth ministry can be blamed for the exodus of young adults from churches. The solution, according to the film, is a church experience where all ages study and worship together.

"The whole point of Divided is that the Bible can be trusted for the way we disciple youth," the film's website says. "The age segregated world that now dominates modern church life is only one of the many effects of rejecting the Lord and the authority of His Word. It is one problem that stands among many others. However, we believe this is a critical issue because the gospel is not being preached to youth in the way

that God has prescribed. We have sidestepped His methods and preferred our own."

"While the only explicit kind of worship, discipleship, celebration and instruction in the Bible is either in the family or is age integrated in the church, we have chosen the opposite."

A Weed in the Church by Scott T. Brown, NCFIC director of the National Center for

and gather them into the corporate meetings of the church."

Jackson said his first inclination was to ignore the film. "I was aware that a movie had been made that was an extension of a movement that seemed on the surface to be very anti-youth ministry. In fact, the movie Divided and Scott Brown's companion book A Weed in the Church seem to

Ross offered suggestions:

- Every church should call a student minister who is committed to seeing parents take their biblical role as primary spiritual leaders of their children (and when possible, as spiritual leaders to children whose parents are lost) and who will build his ministry plan around this central principle.

parents to design and implement a healthy youth ministry.

Mueller, founder and president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, acknowledged that when he agreed to be interviewed for Divided he didn't grasp the intention of Leclerc and his brother Chris, co-owners of a Wisconsin film company.

The film addresses issues that need to be addressed in some youth ministries, Mueller said, such as a lack of depth, a reliance on fun and games, and an eagerness to supplant the biblical design for parental nurturing of children.

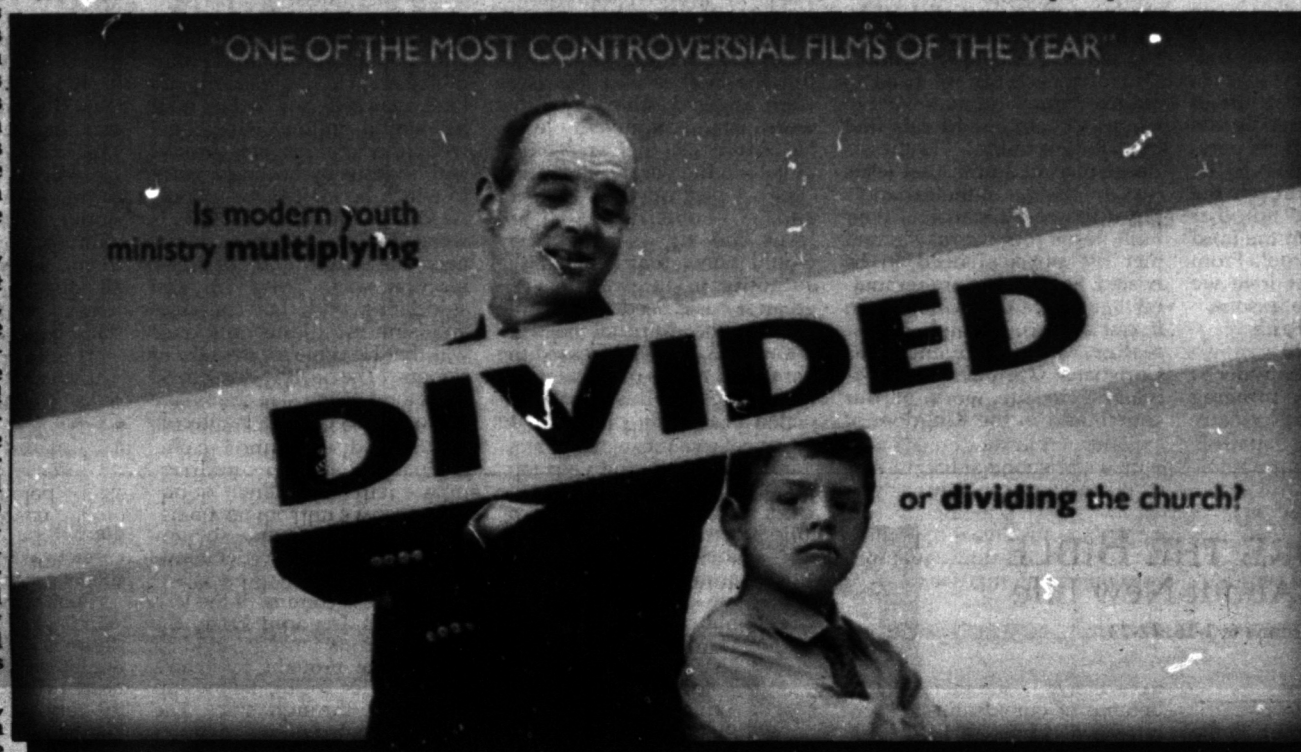
"In fact, these criticisms that are leveled from 'outside' the youth ministry world by NCFIC are many of the very same criticisms that loads of us have been working diligently, prayerfully and biblically to address from within for decades," Mueller, author of eight books pertaining to youth culture, wrote at [learningmylines.blogspot.com](http://learningmylines.blogspot.com) in July. "It troubles

me that none of that was ever included with any depth or honesty."

The problem of stunted spiritual growth among emerging generations is multifaceted, Mueller said, and a lack of father involvement is one of the leading factors. Many youth ministers are seeking to address that, he said. In Mueller's opinion, Divided is "too simple in its analysis, diagnosis, and prescription."

"After viewing the film, I'm wondering what we do with Sunday School or any other efforts to age segregate in order to teach in ways that are cognitively appropriate," Mueller wrote. "Seriously, should we jettison separate and simultaneous efforts to teach the parents the deep truths of the Scriptures (meat) while nurturing 5-year-olds in another room with the milk of a children's catechism?"

"After all, shouldn't we as parents be going deeper and deeper and deeper so that we can effectively nurture our own children?" Mueller added. "On a positive note, I believe the film asks good questions about age segregation in worship. It just shouldn't happen. I've been trumpeting that for years and so have so many others in the youth ministry community. But again, there are times when we can separate from each other to be nurtured in age appropriate ways."



Family Integrated Churches, is presented as a companion book to Divided and is quoted extensively on the film's website. The book suggests that while Scripture defines and encourages youth discipleship, the premises of modern youth ministry are at odds with biblical teaching and must be reformed.

"Can you imagine a more unstable subgroup in which to put youth than with a group of peers? In contrast, can you imagine a more stable or life-giving subgroup than a well-functioning church?" Brown writes.

"Think of the impact of a God-centered home in which a husband and wife are functioning biblically. The relationships there depict the Gospel: husbands loving their wives as Christ loved the Church; wives submitting to their husbands as the church submits to Christ; and children, who have a genuine love for Christ, displaying honor and obedience to their parents. A God-centered home is a powerful force for evangelism," Brown writes.

"God has delivered to us a pattern for reaching youth who have no parents," Brown also writes. "It is to preach the Gospel to them when we go about the community, fold them into individual families, connect them with diverse relationships in the body of Christ,

suggest youth ministry has outlived its usefulness."

"It would be fair to assume that I am responding to a movement that would seemingly render the training of youth ministers as irrelevant as a job security kind of thing, but I hope it doesn't come across that way. I feel like the premise of the movie, though overstated, is valid. Discipleship belongs in the family, but that is not new."

Every credible voice in youth ministry for the past 15 years has pointed to the need to involve parents in the ministry to students, Jackson said, noting books such as Family Based Youth Ministry, Soul Searching, and Rethink.

Divided has some good points, Jackson reiterated. "It raises important issues and causes great questions to be asked. Pastors, youth ministers and church leaders need to address the urgent need to disciple the parents who need to disciple the students. The crisis raised is one of mature adults (fathers, mothers, church leaders) who will be the authentic models that the emerging generation craves."

Jackson believes the way forward is to focus on "challenging and equipping families to raise up disciples and to challenge youth ministries to create environments where biblical teaching is central and Christlike friendships are nurtured."

- Every church should call a student minister who is committed to seeing students folded into the life of the congregation, functioning as full laity and living in rich relationships with all the generations of the church.

- No church should permit practices contrary to Scripture to creep into the student ministry of the church, no matter how noble the motivation such as increasing attendance or attracting unbelievers.

- Existing student ministers who do not understand the biblical role of parents, who think teenagers need to experience student ministry cut off from the rest of the congregation or who think the end justifies the means in terms of unbiblical practices need to work with their pastors on a clear plan for continuing education or need to seek other employment.

- At times, the best way to accomplish the mission of the church is for teenagers to function with their parents. Other times, the best way is for groups of teenagers to function under godly, biblical church leaders.

- Churches not in a position to have a youth minister should enlist adults as a youth team who will agree to partner with